JUL 23 1986

SENIOR VOLUNTEERS IN THE PEACE CORPS

"I had a marvelous experience. Age is so looked up to, you suddenly feel important again."

–Virginia Spray, 71

Since its beginning in 1961 thousands of Senior Volunteers have served in the Peace Corps bringing their experience, education, and wisdom to developing countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. The number of Senior Volunteers is increasing as older Americans–too active for an idle retirement–take up the Peace Corps challenge to help others help themselves. Our Senior Volunteers are the kind that are never too old to keep learning and giving. They are the kind that can bring their accumulated life experiences to those that need them most. Find out what other Senior Volunteers have discovered–that Peace Corps service can be the most rewarding endeavor of your life.

And at the Same Time Reap the Benefits:

- You will be in an environment where life for you is measured by your achievements, not your earning power.
- You will live with dignity and purpose.
- You will be in a culture where your age is an asset.
- You will find that you and your work are appreciated, which renews vigor and vitality.
- You will have the adventure of creating a new life for yourself.

The Peace Corps Pays Special Attention To Providing For:

- good health care
- support systems
- monthly living allowance
- language training
- technical training
- cross-cultural training
- vacation
- safety
- travel
- communication with family
- returning after service

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You May be Interested in Knowing

- Older Americans and the Peace Corps form a strong link in the development chain around the world.
- Peace Corps recognizes the enormous resource Older Americans represent – no other single group has more to offer in terms of experience, maturity and demonstrated ability.
- Older Americans offer a lifetime of work and wisdom which can be shared with millions of people in developing countries who respect and appreciate age.
- Older Americans often desire a channel through which they can share their work and wisdom. There is a need to demonstrate the ability to do a good job in a most productive manner and to make a contribution.

Use Your Skills In:

- **AGRICULTURE.** Men and women with farm experience are needed to work in:
  - crop development
  - plant protection
  - soil science
  - agriculture education
  - agriculture economics
  - animal husbandry
  - farm mechanics
  - beekeeping
  - rural youth projects
  - community agriculture

- **FORESTRY AND FISHERIES.**

  Men and women are needed with:
  - commercial fishing experience
  - forestry experience
  - mechanical training
  - business training

ODI LONG, 81, served longer than any Peace Corps Volunteer . . . in Gabon, Togo, Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso in West Africa as well as Haiti. He has shared his construction skills with all these nations and he says, "The Peace Corps for me was something to do. I knew I could help and went over there to render a service." He joined the Peace Corps in 1967, the same day he retired after 41 years with AT&T and Illinois Bell. During his lifetime he has been a lumberjack, did some farm work, raised chickens, remodeled old houses and was a landscaper. "When you have idle moments, when your mind is not occupied, you start feeling your age," he observed. "I don't have idle moments."

- **SKILLED TRADES.** Some of the needs are for:
  - cabinetmakers
  - carpenters
  - electricians
  - masons
  - mechanics
  - metalworkers
  - plumbers
  - welders

- **EDUCATION.** Qualified teachers are needed in:
  - primary education
  - physical education
  - secondary education
  - library science
  - special education
  - secretarial training
  - industrial arts
  - teaching English as a second language

- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

  Volunteers are needed to:
  - improve local craft marketing
  - upgrade women's self-sufficiency projects
  - increase employment opportunities in rural areas
  - set up small businesses, cooperatives and other income-generating projects

- **HOME ECONOMICS AND NUTRITION**

  Volunteers are needed for:
  - commercial handicrafts production
  - vegetable and small animal production
  - diet planning
  - demonstration of proper food use and storage
  - counseling in mother and child nutrition
  - school lunch programs
  - sanitation and health projects

- **ENGINEERING.** Engineers are needed in:
  - water and sanitation engineering
  - road and structural building
  - architecture
  - urban planning

- **MATH AND SCIENCE.** Volunteers are needed to work in:
  - mathematics
  - symbolic logic
  - general science
  - biology
  - chemistry
  - physics
  - botany

There Are Some Requirements for Acceptance Into Peace Corps:

- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- THERE IS NO UPPER AGE LIMIT.
- You must meet basic legal and medical criteria. If you have an extensive medical history, permit additional time for medical clearance. (There may be some medical considerations relative to the country of assignment which you need to discuss with a Peace Corps recruiter.)
- Married couples are eligible and encouraged to serve if both can work and wish to be volunteers. It generally takes additional time to find suitable placements for couples.
- Some assignments require a college or technical school degree or an experience equivalent. (You may discuss these areas and any other issues with a recruiter.)

For further information or an application, call, toll-free, 800-424-8580, ext. 93.

There is no discrimination by the Peace Corps because of race, color, national origin, age, political beliefs, sex or religion. Anyone who feels discriminated against by the Peace Corps may write to the Office of Compliance, Peace Corps, Washington, D.C. 20526.

PC 5023